

WELCOME TO ST. STEPHEN'S! Please sign our Friendship Register with your name and address. A nursery is provided for children through age 4 for both worship services and for infants and toddlers during Sunday School. As you exit the narthex, the nursery is located down the hall on the right side. Restroom facilities are located on the left side. First Aid, Emergency Equipment and a wheelchair are located on the right by the stairwell. If for any reason you must leave the sanctuary, the service is live streamed in the Men's Sunday school classroom. Any usher will be glad to direct you.

Sunday school classes are provided for 18 month olds through adults. Listening devices and larger print bulletins are located in the narthex. Ushers are also available to assist you.

Children's bags and activity sheets can be found in the "Kid's Corner" of the narthex.

GATHERING MUSIC

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

PRELUDE

(We Stand)

RITE OF BLESSING FOR BEGINNING OF THE SCHOOL YEAR

God is the source of all wisdom and knowledge. Let us ask God to bless those who seek to learn, their teachers, and all whose labor supports education.

Students, teachers, and support personnel are asked to stand and be recognized.

Students are invited to come forward with their backpacks.

Another school year is about to begin. In times like these it is appropriate to gather to pray for blessing upon students, teachers, support personnel, parents/guardians, and all who serve God through their work in education. It is also appropriate that we as members of St. Stephen's pledge to love and support the educational communities in the world around us, as well as those who are a part of this congregation. We come asking God to grant this congregation the wisdom and means to meet their needs throughout the coming year. Give them pride in their labor, reminding them and us that even the most ordinary task becomes extraordinary when done in God's name.

When it's the night before going to school, and I pick out my clothes and make sure I have all my school supplies:

Jesus is with me.

(1)

When I get in the car, on the school bus, ride my bike, or drive myself and/or my children to school:

Jesus is with me.

When I meet my teachers, my students, or my new friends in my class:

Jesus is with me.

When I teach young minds:

Jesus is with me.

When I help my child get ready for each school day, as I prepare to teach each school day, as I make sure that all is ready for each new school day:

Jesus is with me.

When I tell my family about my day at school:

Jesus is with me.

When I pray at night and thank God for my family, my friends and my school:

Jesus is with me.

Today, as we celebrate the beginning of the school year, we also have before us backpacks to be carried to and from school by the children and youth gathered here. These backpacks will contain homework to be done, work that's been returned, books to be studied, and tools to be used. Some days, so much stuff will fill these backpacks that the student may find it difficult to walk. Other days, they will be light and nearly empty. But on each and every day, these backpacks represent work required of the students gathered here.

As in every aspect of our life, we bring all of you and also these backpacks before God for blessing at this time.

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, we lift to you today, these students. They stand here ready to receive your blessings and they commit themselves to learning and growing in the school year ahead. We ask your blessing on each of them. Further, we ask your blessing on these backpacks. They will hold the school work of each student and will be carried from home to school and back again. As these students carry these backpacks, may they be reminded of the love and care of this congregation that surrounds them each school day. We pray as well for the parents, teachers and administrators in our schools. May they also be sustained by your blessing. May they be reminded that this congregation embraces their call to mentoring, teaching and learning, and surrounds them with love and care. All of this we pray in the name of Jesus who we seek to follow day by day.

Amen.

(2)

GATHERING SONG

“Jesus Loves Me”

1 Je - sus loves me! this I know, for the Bi - ble tells me so;
 2 Je - sus loves me! he who died heav - en's gates to o - pen wide;
 3 Je - sus loves me! he will stay close be - side me all the way;

lit - tle ones to him be - long, they are weak, but he is strong.
 he will wash a - way my sin, let his lit - tle child come in.
 when at last I come to die, he will take me home on high.

Refrain

Yes, Je - sus loves me, yes, Je - sus loves me,

yes, Je - sus loves me, the Bi - ble tells me so.

“Down By the Creek Bank”

A Children's Musical
by Dottie Rambo and David Huntsinger

Director
Bailey Parker

Assistant Directors
Ashely Lackore, Julie Tworzyanski, Judy Koon, Cooper Reynolds

Musicians
St. Stephen's Children's Choir, Matt McCall and Jim Graddick

Scene 1
Pastor Jason

“Down by the Creek Bank”

Scene 2
Susannah Howell, Jack Jebaily, Meghan Timmerman, Tripp Sorenson, and Carlee Tworzyanski

“Ain't Gonna Let the Mountains Praise the Lord”

Scene 3
Sam Taylor, Joseph Sorenson, Jaime Wessinger, and Shaun Wessinger

“Being Me”
Soloists—Sophie Taylor, Chappell Lackore, Susannah Howell, and McKayla DiMartino

“I Am Adopted”
Soloist—Andrew Tworzyanski

Scene 4
Chappell Lackore, McKayla DiMartino, Susannah Howell, and Mary Beth Stafford

“Multiply”

Scene 5
Sam Taylor and McKayla DiMartino

“Fill In the Blanks”

Scene 6

Mrs. Bailey, Chappell Lackore, Thomas Brunson, Sophie Taylor, and Mary Beth Stafford

"Love Is"

Soloist—Chappell Lackore

Scene 7

Mary Beth Stafford, Madelyn Burgess, Sophie Taylor, Susannah Howell, and Ansley Cato

"Puzzles"

"He Plants Me Like a Seed"

Soloists—Meghan Timmerman and Ansley Cato

Scene 8

Andrew Tworzyanski

"Is There Anything I Can Do For You"

Soloist—Mary Beth Stafford

Closing Remarks

Congregational Verse:

**Is there anything I can do for You? Is there anything I can do?
For all the things You've done for me, is there anything I can do?
I'm willing to be used, dear Lord, whate'er the price may be.
So if there's anything I can do for You, just make it known to me.**

OFFERING

Anthem

(Jim Graddick, Violin)

(We Stand)

OFFERING SONG

Refrain


As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were



gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from



all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.



1 As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst,
2 Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when



may we share the pres - ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

Refrain

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.



Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.



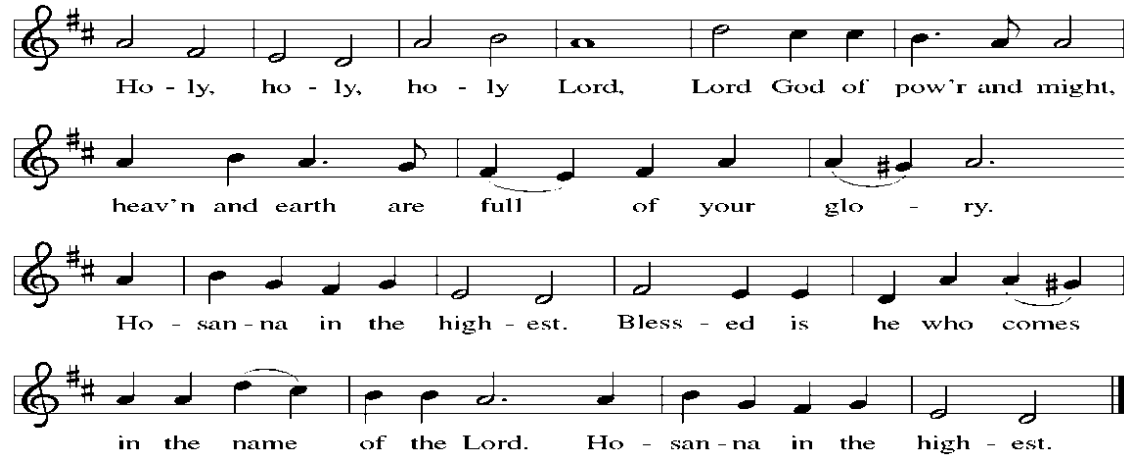
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



It is right to give our thanks and praise.

THE PREFACE

THE SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

(We Sit)

THE AGNUS DEI



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

RECEPTION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Christ welcomes you to this Holy Meal of the Baptized! We receive communion this morning at the center aisle. Children who commune should be assisted by adults near them. Those unable to partake of wine or wheaten bread are assured of our Lord's presence in, with and under each element alone.

Communion Music

(Jim Graddick, Violin)

*The Congregation is encouraged to participate in the following Communion Hymn.
The hymn can be found in the back portion of the LBW (Green) Hymnal in your pew rack.*

Communion Hymn

"Children of the Heavenly Father"

LBW 474

(We Stand)

BLESSING OF THE COMMUNICANTS

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
Amen.

BENEDICTION

Almighty and merciful God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless, preserve, and keep you this day and forevermore.

Amen.

SENDING SONG

"This Little Light of Mine"

1 This lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
 2 Ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
 3 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;

oh, oh,

this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
 ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;

oh,

this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine,
 ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine,
 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine,

oh,

let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
 let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
 let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live in love, as Christ loved us.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

*From sundaysandseasons.com.
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The Prayer and Readings on This Day

Prayer of the Day

Ever-loving God, your Son gives himself as living bread for the life of the world. Fill us with such a knowledge of his presence that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life to serve you continually, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Readings for the 13th Sunday after Pentecost

This Sunday's passage from John 6 is illumined by the readings from Proverbs and Ephesians. The stark vocabulary of the gospel can go down well when at the table we eat a piece of good bread and drink a swallow of fine wine.

John 6:51-58

When we eat the food of holy communion (the verb in v. 53 connotes "munch"), we ingest the life of Christ. Christians have executed each other over acceptable language with which to explain the mystery of the sacrament. While we refrain from such polemic, we are called to try our best to give contemporary synonyms for the meaning of this meal. We are what we eat: in this meal, we together eat Christ, and so become his body in the world.

Proverbs 9:1-6

Christians have seen in the Woman Wisdom poems a metaphor for Christ, who serves up a meal of bread and wine and calls us all to live in the way of insight.

Ephesians 5:15-20

When Christ lives in us, we are filled with his Spirit and respond in praise to God. This passage complements the Proverbs reading. We are to live wisely, not getting drunk; yet we respond to Wisdom's invitation to "drink of the wine I have mixed." The juxtaposition of these passages exemplifies the hermeneutic of the lectionary: no biblical passage stands alone, but all are flanked with other scriptural voices, as we work at Christian interpretation.

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the Glory of God in memory of our parents, James and Dorothy Lowman, by Beth, Jan and David.

SERVING TODAY: Council Person for August: Gerald Kolb

Ushers: (8:30) Odie Rawl, Vernon Hester, Bill Carroll, Ivan Black, Aaron Rawl, Pat Bowen, and Eric Wessinger;

(11:00) Ken Matthews, Alon Cox, Randy Huber, Rick Swaffield, and Roy Welch

Greeters: (8:30) Jessica and Chad McMurray; (11:00) Ed and Terry Smith

Order of St. Stephen's: (8:30) [A] Carlee Tworzyanski [C] Emilee Black

(11:00) [A] Paul Waites [C] Caroline Westberry

Nursery: (8:30) Ivan and Michelle Black; (11:00) Jamie and Tripp Brunson

***“People of Christ
Making a
Difference”***

**13th Sunday after
Pentecost**

The Church Staff Crisis Care Line: 808-6471 Website: www.sslc.org

The Rev. Dr. Patrick W. Riddle

The Rev. Jason T. Antley

Mrs. Shannon Burnett, Director of Family Life

Mrs. Bailey Parker, Music Director

Mr. Matthew McCall, Organist

Mrs. Beth Haggard, Preschool Director

Mrs. Tonya Reynolds, Parish Administrator

Miss Natalie Cook, Seminarian

Mrs. Sylvia Looney, Organist Emeritus

**Children’s Summer
Musical Performance**

August 19, 2018

Summer Sunday School Information:

Locations for Children’s Classes

Locations for Adult Classes

**8:30 &
11:00AM**

2’s – 5K – Room #103	Saints & Sinners with Pastor Jason – Chapel (Upstairs in Family Life Center)
1st – 6th Grade – Children’s Choir Room	Men’s Sunday School – Men’s Classroom (Downstairs)
	Agape Adult Class – Room #207